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ABSTRACT

For the past twenty years university libraries have shown a tendency toward concentration of the holdings of separate institute libraries belonging to the same field of study within one single library. There has also been separation of branch libraries from the main body of the central library particularly in the fields of medicine and natural science. The influence of the new library systems and the growing conviction that a scattered library system is uneconomical and unable to solve the needs of 15,000 to 20,000 students has brought about a new approach to these problems. Librarians and the institutes are convinced that close coordination and continuous cooperation between the central library and the approximately 125 other libraries of the university will become a necessity. In 1968 the 40 members of the Working Committee of the University Libraries of the German Federal Republic recommended that all libraries of a university form a comprehensive system aimed at a purposeful book collection for the university. It also recommended setting up a university library commission to function as a collegiate organ to determine the guidelines for the future coordination and cooperation of the various libraries. (NH)

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Sub-section of University
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/F.R.G./

THE RELATION OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES TO THEIR UNIVERSITIES IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. DEVELOPMENT AND TENDENCIES.

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The Relation of the University Libraries to their Universities in the Federal Republic of Germany. Development and Tendencies.

(Summary of a report held before the sub-section "University Libraries" of the IFLA during the 36th session in Moscow, 1970)

by

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1. The Present situation of the Universities in the Federal Republic of Germany

Every university library is part of the university. The library is closely connected with the history of the university, with its transition to a new historical form. In the Federal Republic of Germany a period in the history of universities soon will come to an end and a new one will arrive. The bases of the German university, developed by Wilhelm von Humboldt 150 years ago, can no longer meet all the requirements, which a modern industrial society will put to the universities in the following decades. In 1960 there were 200,000 students in the Federal Republic of Germany, today there are about 450,000 students, and according to the intentions of the government there will be a million students in 1980. To the number of 40 present universitites, 30 new universities shall be added. Such an expansion in the organization of higher education will break up the traditional framework of the German universities. New forms in the organization of research, teaching and education will be developed at the universities of the Federal Republic of Germany, which will on the whole approximate the international level of universities.

2. The Concerns of Library in the Universities of the Federal Republic of Germany

Whenever a German librarian hears something about "The Library in the University", he will spontaneously have in mind the central library, on second thought he will remember

the 100 and more institute libraries.

The German university of the last 150 years had a strictly individual conception. Individual conception with regard to the student who had to find by himself the best way through the lot of intellectual phenomena. Individual conception especially with regard to the professor who, a "genius" individual, in "loneliness and peace" devoted himself to his "pure" and- so ran the opinion - at the same time ennobling study. For this purpose, the state established for each of the professors with title for life an institute for his own interests. By this fact, almost all dispositions over materials and persons of an university were made by the professors, who were the directors of the institutes. In the faculty and in the senate, the professors directed by majorities the development of the university. But as they were primarily interested in their own institutes, the common institutions, for example of the faculties or central institutions of the whole university, could hardly develop. With the increasing specialization of science the number of institutes steadily increased. By separate transactions of the institute directors with the state, and without any coordination, these institutes expanded continuously. Accordingly, every institute established its own library, without any connection to other institute libraries or to the central library. The aims of the uncontrolled establishment of institutes were autonomy and independence as far as possible.

This until recently current conception of institutes in German universitites resulted inevitably in the increasing loss of functions of the central library which we call the university library. In 1891, when more and more institutes were established, scattered all over the city limits of an university town, a first effort of coordination and co-operation was frustrated at the very beginning. Nor had all the following attempts up to the fifties of this century any success. They could not and cannot be successful, while the

system of institutes continues, that means the particularist system which consists on distributing the state funds for research and teaching on 100 - 150 autonomous institutes.

Some dates may illustrate the problem:
In 1893, 14 universities had 114 institute libraries with altogether 200,000 volumes. Some 30 years afterwards, in 1927, 28 universities had 1,230 institute libraries with about 5 million volumes. But in 1968, the five universities of Aachen, Bonn, Cologne, Munster and Bochum had for themselves 559 institute libraries with almost 5 million volumes, while the corresponding 5 university libraries had altogether only 3,4 million volumes, 13 of these institute libraries had more than 50,000 volumes, one of them even 143,000 volumes. At the University of Cologne, for example, there are 33 institute libraries for economics, sociology and politics which have no connection neither to each other nor to the central library. On an average, each of these universities subscribes to 13,500 journals without any co-ordination. Another example: during the first 16 years (1948-1964) the Freie Universität of Berlin got 90 institute libraries with a total of 963,000 volumes, besides the central library with 358,000 volumes.

3. Development and Tendencies since 1960

3.1 The Library Systems of the New Universities

According to a hundred year old tradition, the state executive for cultural affairs, especially for education, was distributed in the Federal Republic of Germany until 1969 among 11 lands. In order to co-ordinate the planning for research and for universities and to participate the Federal Government in the expences, a central department for planning, though without the executive power, was founded in 1957: the (Scientific Advisory Council) der Wissenschaftsrat. Until 1968, the only aim of the advices, formulated by officials of ministerial departments and professors, was to co-ordinate the capacity of the universities with the increasing number of students. The Wissenschaftsrat

did not dare to alter the traditional structure of the university organization, especially the system of institutions. Therefore the Wissenschaftsrat would not abandon the juxtaposition of institute libraries and central library. But its advices for a co-operation of these two types of libraries were quite as ineffective as had been all the former proposals of this kind. It was only in 1968, 11 years after its foundation, that the Wissenschaftsrat advised to renounce the system of institutions and to forward the establishment of Fachbereiche, that means units similar to the departments of the Anglo-Saxon universities.

This new conception based on the foundation of the University of Constance. This university was founded in order to develop new forms of organization in the self-government of an university, to evolve new models of study and to provide the basis for research on a university planned for 3,000 students. The committee of foundation developed in 1964 for the first time the conception, that instead of the former institutes departments should be founded, each of them for about 5 - 10 professorships with similar methods and or subjects[1]. Moreover, the committee of foundation, at the meetings of which the director of the library was present from the very beginning, advised to divide the supply of books and journals for the 15 departments into 15 sections of the library. These sections should be co-ordinated by a central system, both with regard of space and function, together with the departments, the bibliographical center, and the central library administration which provides the books and is responsible for their management. The outlines of library policy should be fixed by the library committee, a commission of the executive board of the university, which is presided by a (rector) president. The needed literature is ordered in co-operation by the academic librarians (accordingly to last experiences at a share of 75%) and the teaching staff (25%).

This concept of a library system was adopted in 1967 in all its essential parts by the founding committee (Gründungsausschuß) of the Universität Bielefeld, a university following a policy similar to the one adopted by the Universität Konstanz. There, however, more stress was put on the decentralisation of the library system, whereas planning in Konstanz resulted in an extremely high degree of spatial concentration. The following details of the architectural planning may serve to illustrate the structure of this type of a new university:
The university -(in our case:) Konstanz - will be constructed on an area measuring appr. 300 m^2, in such a way that all parts can be reached "under one roof".

The information center and the book processing departments will be located in the center of the building complex. Directly connected with these will be the book area with a capacity of approximately 1 million volumes of books and periodicals shelved in open access. During night hours it will be possible to keep this book area open with only one check-out desk (which is connected with data processing). The desks of the students, as well as the studies of the teaching and research staff are located on adjoining floors, and in close connection with the book area. Directly neighbouring to these are the teaching and administrative rooms of the departments (Fachbereiche).

The general and departmental catalogs, alphabetical as well as subject catalogs, are printed by means of data processing, are reduced in size, reprinted and then made accessible at various points throughout the university compound.

Both library types - central library and departmental library are one identical entity: the university library.

Aiming at reform both of university structure and teaching and stressing interdepartmental research and co-operation, these newly founded small universities are not intended to ease the pressure of the student masses felt by the traditional universities.

As an example for this second type of newly founded university may stand the Universität Regensburg, a university which is designed for a student body of 15,000 to 20,000.

The library system - it was also designed in 1964/65 already - of this university consists of a central library (shelf space: 1.5. million volumes; study desks: 260) serving as a student lending library.

In addition to it there are 14 departmental libraries serving mainly the needs of the teaching and research staff. These libraries are located next to the departments with a shelf space of appr. 50,000 vol. each.

Distances between two departmental libraries, as well as between a departmental library and the central library, run from 100 to 500 m over uncovered campus space. The Director of the Library directs all the library activities according to the library policies formulated by the Library Commission of the university.

The central library is responsible for the selection of all literature shelved there (in open access), whereas a departmental commission - including the academic subject librarian (Fachreferent) in charge of the departmental library - is selecting the titles for the departmental library.

The acquisition and processing of all titles is handled by the central library, which also receives all literature no longer required in the departmental libraries. Data processing is used to produce the catalogs.

3.2 The old-type universitites

For the past twenty years the development of library affairs at the old-type universities has shown a tendency towards concentration as well as co-ordinated differentiation, a tendency typical these days also for other subject areas. That is towards concentration of the holdings of up to then separate institute libraries (den Institutsbibliotheken) belonging to the same field of study within one single library (called alternatively Instituts-Abteilungs- or Fakultätsbibliothek).

Also towards differentiation, that is separation of branch libraries from the main body of the central library, particularly in the fields of medicine and natural science.[4] Both the influence of the new library systems and the growing conviction that a scattered library system is uneconomically cost-intensive and at the same time unable to solve the literature needs of some 15,000 to 20,000 students brought about a new approach towards these problems. Not only librarians, but also the institutes become increasingly convinced that close co-ordination and continous co-operation between the central library and the appr. 125 (other) libraries of the university will become a necessity.

Within the context of both the eighty-years history of the profession of the German academic librarian and of the professorial tradition, such a policy signals a kind of Copernican turn. There are, however, already instances in which this turn was taken; pragmatically and step by step together with co-operative institutes with the central library selecting its new acquisitions supplementary to those of the institutes, at the same time taking over the technical services such as cataloging and acquisitions processing (as for example in Marburg and Bochum).

This is a farsighted policy, relying on skill, patience and perseverance, just as the one followed by the Universitätsbibliothek der Technischen Universität Berlin. There holdings in special subject areas (Biology, Chemistry, Architecture, Earth Sciences a.o.) were seperated from the main body of the central library and combined with the holdings of several institute libraries covering the same subject area to form a new departmental library administered by the university library.

At these, as well as at other universities, work is in progress to set up a union catalog of all holdings at the university which is to serve as an important instrument for a co-ordinated book selection. In a first stage, mainly union catalogs of periodical holdings will be set up.

In 1968 the 40 members of the Working Committee of the University Libraries (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Hochschulbibliotheken) of the German Federal Republic, after thorough discussion adopted a recommendation passed on to all universities and state ministries of education (Kultusministerien). According to this, all librarires of a university are to form a comprehensive system aiming at a purposeful book supply of the university . It was recommended to set up a library commission of the university which is to function as a collegiate organ determining the guidelines according to which the co-ordination and co-operation of the various libraries is supposed to proceed. The director of the University library is a member of the commission. Along the lines of the resolutions adopted by the commission he will direct

the step by step organization of the system.

The increase of the holdings of all libraries and all questions of co-ordination are to be tackled in close co-operation of the academic subject librarian (Fachreferent) of the university library and the representatives of the 'Institute' or departments.

In order to further the processes of rethinking and of the reform of library activities (Bibliothekswesen) at the university the Library Committee of the German Research Association (Bibliotheksausschuß der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft), has supplemented these general recommendations by detailed suggestions aiming at co-operation and co-ordination[5]. These are widely distributed throughout all universities.

Finally there is to report that several tendencies of these deliberations aiming at a reform of library activities at the universities of the German Federal Republic, were incorporated in various and not always well-reasoned ways into bills or laws of state parliaments dealing with the university reform.[6] There is still a long way to go till these ideas about a necessary co-ordination and co-operation of all libraries of the university are incorporated by the administrative bodies of the universities into their own statutes and - that is even more important - till they are accepted and brought to life by the university itself.

The librarians at the German universities will - that is: if they get the funds needed for material and personnel expenses - not within a few years but

only within the course of one or two decades will be able to set up a comprehensive library system replacing the present scattered one. It is to be hoped that their courage to tackle this difficult task will find the necessary support.

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1) Die Universität Konstanz. Bericht des Gründungsausschusses. Konstanz 1965, P. 34; vgl. ferner: Über den Stand der Universität Konstanz, in: Konstanzer Blätter für Hochschulfragen, VIII (1970), P. 46: "The department itself does not have its own separate library or equipment, its own annual budget, research funds or permanent staff positions. The disposition for all this is handled by the central administrative institutions which in turn are advised and controlled by the respective bodies of the university self-administration."

2) Zeitschrift für Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographien XII (1965), S. 301 ff.

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6) G. Pflug, Die Hochschulbibliothek in den Gesetzen zur Hochschulreform, in Zeitschrift für Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographien XVI (1969), S. 245 ff; 261 ff.